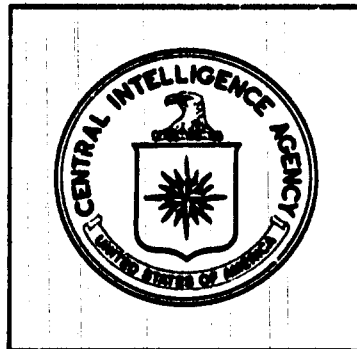


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APPROVED FOR RELEASE  
DATE: APR 2008

EO 12958 3.3(b)(1)>25Yrs  
EO 12958 6.2(c)  
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## Latin American Trends

## STAFF NOTES

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CI SNLA 76-024  
No. 0704-76  
June 16, 1976

~~SECRET~~

Mexico: New Police Unit

The Echeverria government, alarmed by recent killings and kidnappings by the 23rd of September Communist League, has created a new police unit with special enforcement powers to deal with terrorism.

President Echeverria's decision to set up the unit reflects his concern over the terrorism problem. The 23rd of September organization, which probably numbers 50 to 75 Marxist extremists, has killed 20 policemen in Mexico City since the first of the year and kidnaped the Belgian ambassador's daughter. Through ransoms and attacks on policemen, the league has amassed a considerable arsenal of guns and money and has defied all efforts by the authorities to eliminate it.

The government is worried that the League will try to interfere with the presidential elections to be held on July 4. Its fears were reinforced last week by wall slogans, painted by a group of young people, promising that the League would disrupt the "fraud of the elections."

June 16, 1976

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